

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 XMB-02 FRB-03 /083 W

----- 109106

O 101657Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2445

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 1455

BUENOS AIRES AND MONTEVIDEO FOR ASST SECY ROGERS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, PINT, SHUM

SUBJECT: MARCH 11 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

1. SUMMARY: BY ALL RIGHTS, GOC SHOULD MARK MARCH 11 ANNIVERSARY OF 18 MONTHS IN POWER WITH SOME KIND OF CEREMONY AND/OR IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT. SO FAR, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IS PLANNED. UPCOMING VISIT OF ASST. SEC. ROGERS, PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS MAY BE COMPLICATING FACTORS FOR GOC. END SUMMARY.

2. MARCH 11 MARKS 18 MONTHS IN POWER FOR JUNTA, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ISSUANCE OF ITS DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, AND EXPIRATION DATE OF THE CURRENT 6-MONTH EXTENSION OF STATE OF SIEGE. NORMALLY, GIVEN LATIN PENCHANT FOR COMMEMORATING "HISTORIC" OCCASIONS, WE WOULD EXPECT SOME KIND OF CEREMONY AND A SPEECH BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET OR SOME OTHER TOP GOC LEADER IN WHICH IMPORTANT POLICY DECISIONS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED. YET WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION, EITHER THROUGH USUAL PUBLIC

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RELATIONS BUILDUP OR IN-THE-KNOW GOSSIP, THAT GOC IS PLANNING

ANY KIND OF EVENT ON THAT DATE. ONLY POSSIBLE INDICATION IS  
SWITCH OF ROGERS MEETING WITH PRES. PINOCHET FROM MARCH 11 TO  
MARCH 12.

3. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE TALK AT START OF YEAR THAT MAJOR  
ANNOUNCEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD COULD BE EXPECTED IN MARCH.  
SPECULATION INCLUDED SUCH ITEMS AS LIFTING OF CURFEW, REDUCTION  
IN RIGOR OF STATE OF SIEGE, ANOTHER STEP IN DETAINEE RELEASE  
PROGRAM, AND POSSIBLY MORE FAR-REACHING CHANGES. THIS SPECULATION  
HAS NEARLY DISAPPEARED IN LAST MONTH. WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO  
BELIEVE GOC IS RECONSIDERING POLICY TOWARD CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY, BUT THIS SEEMS AN UNLIKELY TOPIC FOR DISCLOSURE  
MARCH 11. CONSEQUENTLY, EVEN IF SOME KIND OF CEREMONY IS  
STAGED AT LAST MOMENT, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS  
WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

4. COMPLICATING FACTOR FOR GOC MAY BE VISIT OF ASST. SEC.  
ROGERS, WHO ARRIVES IN CHILE ON THAT DAY, AND PROSPECTIVE  
VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER SOME WEEKS THEREAFTER. GOC  
MAY FEAR THAT IF IT ANNOUNCES MAJOR POLICY DEPARTURES AT THIS  
TIME, ESPECIALLY IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THIS WILL BE  
INTERPRETED AS CAVING TO FOREIGN (I.E. US) PRESSURE, SOMETHING  
GOC LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THEY WOULD NOT DO. IN  
SIMILAR SENSE, PARIS CLUB DEBT RENEGOTIATING IS PENDING, OAS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND PRELIMINARY ILO REPORTS ARE  
PRESENTLY SUBJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION, AND VISIT  
OF UNHRC INVESTIGATING TEAM IS ANTICIPATED. IN SHORT, IF  
GOC IS ACTUALLY THINKING OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN ITS HUMAN  
RIGHTS PRACTICES, IT MAY WISH TO TIME THEM TO MINIMIZE THE  
INFERENCE THAT THEY WERE ADOPTED UNDER PRESSURE.

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## Message Attributes

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